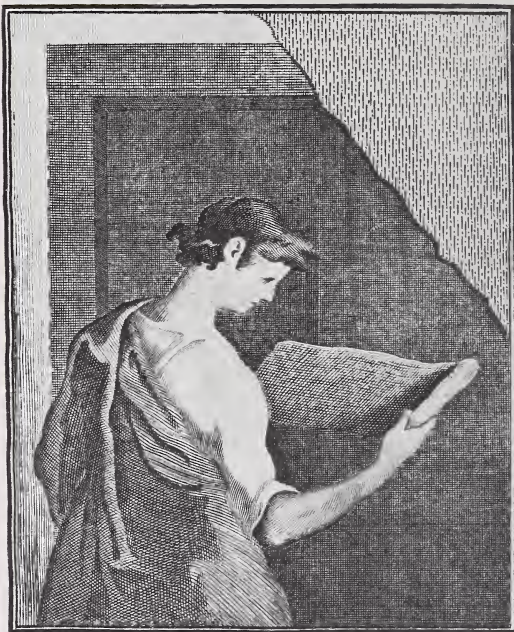


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FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND
ARCHITECTURE

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1883.

THE J. PAUL GETTY CENTER
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Council and Office-Bearers

OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 14TH NOVEMBER 1883.

Council.


SIR WILLIAM FETTES DOUGLAS, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

W. F. VALLANCE, Esq. ARTHUR PERIGAL, Esq. ROBERT HERDMAN, Esq.		ROBERT GIBB, Esq. ALEXANDER FRASER, Esq. WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.
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GEORGE HAY, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

ARTHUR PERIGAL, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

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J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,	}	VISITORS OF THE LIFE ACADEMY.
WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.,		
W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.,		
ROBERT GIBB, Esq.,		



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REPORT.

THE COUNCIL beg to submit to the Annual General Assembly of the Royal Scottish Academy their Report for the past year, as follows :—

I. The Exhibition of 1883 (the Fifty-seventh) was opened on Saturday, the 17th of February, and closed on Saturday, the 12th of May. The number of works exhibited was 1118,—viz., 1084 Paintings in Oil and Water-Colour, and 34 Works in Sculpture,—selected out of a total of 2268 sent for exhibition. The Exhibition was composed, with comparatively few exceptions, of the productions of Scottish Artists, and its attractiveness was enhanced by a more than usual number of contributions from Honorary Members. The attendance of Visitors was unprecedentedly large.

II. The Annual Dinner took place in the Galleries as usual on the eve of the opening of the Exhibition, when the President and Council had the pleasure of receiving a very numerous and distinguished company. On this occasion the Royal Scottish Academy Club in London was represented for the first time by a number of Honorary Members, and Members now residing there.¹

¹ Calder Marshall, R.A. ; Thomas Faed, R.A. ; W. Q. Orchardson, R.A. ; John Pettie, R.A. ; John MacWhirter, A.R.A. ; John Faed, R.S.A. ; James Archer, R.S.A. ; H. Cameron, R.S.A. ; Keeley Halswelle, A.R.S.A.

III. At the Annual General Meeting, held on 8th of November 1882, Messrs. Robert Macgregor, David Farquharson, and John Henry Lorimer, were elected to the rank of Associate of the Academy, to fill the vacancies caused by the election of Robert Gibb to the rank of Academician, the resignation of John MacWhirter, now an Honorary Member, and the death of John Crawford Wintour.

IV. At the Statutory Meeting of the Academicians held on the 10th of February, William Darling McKay was elected an Academician to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sir Daniel Macnee. This election, the death of Mungo Burton, and the resignation of Robert Rowand Anderson, have caused three vacancies in the rank of Associate, which will require to be filled up at the Meeting at which this Report is read.

At the Statutory Meeting in February next, the Academy will be called upon to elect an Academician in place of the late Robert Gavin.

V. The following is the Report of the Librarian and Curators of the Library :—

“There has been an average attendance of the Members in the Library during the past Session.

“The Librarian has been engaged during the past year carrying on the arrangement and classification of the large and valuable collection of drawings bequeathed to the Academy by the late David Laing, LL.D., Honorary Professor of Ancient History to the Royal Scottish Academy, and it is expected that this duty will be accomplished, in terms of Dr. Laing’s Bequest, before the issue of next Annual Report.

“The books, prints, etc., in the Library are in good condition, and catalogued up to date.

“The following list of books, prints, etc., have been added to the Library :—

“Werner’s Nomenclature of Colours, with Additions. Arranged so as to render it highly useful to the Arts and Sciences, particularly Zoology, Botany, Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Morbid Anatomy; annexed to which are Examples selected from well-known Objects in the Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral Kingdoms. By Patrick Syme, Flower Painter, Edinburgh; Painter to the Wernerian and Horticultural Societies of Edinburgh. Edinburgh, 1814. Post 8vo.

Presented by SIR WILLIAM FETTES DOUGLAS, P.R.S.A.

“Round about the Round O. With its Poets. Edited, with Notes, by George Hay, F.S.A. Scot., author of ‘The History of Arbroath.’ The Drawings by John Adam, Edinburgh. Reproduced by Amand Durand, Paris. Arbroath, 1883. Royal 4to.

Presented by PATRICK ALLAN FRASER, Esq., H.R.S.A.

“Edinburgh Architectural Association Sketch-Book, 1875-1882. Edinburgh, (n.d.) 3 Vols., Folio.

Presented by the COMMITTEE OF THE EDINBURGH ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION SKETCH-BOOK.

“Fish and Fisheries. A Selection from the Prize Essays of the International Fisheries Exhibition, Edinburgh, 1882. Edited by David Herbert, M.A. With Maps and Illustrations. Edinburgh, 1883. Demy 8vo.

Presented by the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

“Proof Impressions of the Plates to illustrate a book entitled ‘Twelve Sketches of Scenery and Antiquities on the Great North of Scotland Railway.’ By George Reid, R.S.A. With Illustrative Letterpress by W. Ferguson of Kinmundy.

Presented by GEORGE REID, Esq., R.S.A.

“Ancient and Modern Furniture. By John W. Small, F.S.A. Scot., Architect. Edinburgh, 1883. Royal 4to.

Presented by JOHN W. SMALL, Esq.

“Statuto e Prescrizioni della Pubblica Accademia di Pittura, Scultura, ed Architettura Instituita Nella Città di Venezia per Decreto dell’ Eccellentissimo Senato. 1782. 4to.

Presented by JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq., R.S.A.

“A copy of the Edinburgh Evening Courant. Date 25th February 1830. Containing a notice of the Exhibition of the Scottish Academy.

Presented by WALLER H. PATON, Esq., R.S.A., in 1882.

“Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow, A.D. 1630-1662. Glasgow, 1881. 4to.

“Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Edinburgh, A.D. 1573-1589. Edinburgh, 1882. 4to.

“The Seven Lamps of Architecture, by John Ruskin, Author of ‘Modern Painters,’ with Illustrations drawn and etched by the Author. London, 1849. Imperial 8vo.

“The Story of Ida : Epitaph on an Etrurian Tomb, by Francesca, edited, with Preface, by John Ruskin, D.C.L. Sunnyside, Orpington, Kent. 1883. Post 8vo.

“Lectures on Architecture and Painting, delivered at Edinburgh in November 1853, by John Ruskin, Author of ‘The Stones of Venice,’ ‘Seven Lamps of Architecture,’ ‘Modern Painters,’ etc., with Illustrations drawn by the Author. London, 1854. Post 8vo.

“The Holbein Society, fac-simile Reprints : Tewrdannekh, Part II. Manchester, 1883. Folio.

“Cassell’s Old and New Edinburgh : *Its History, its People, and its Places*. By James Grant, Author of ‘Memorials of the Castle of Edinburgh,’ ‘British Battles on Land and Sea,’ etc. Illustrated by numerous Engravings. London, 1883. 3 Volumes, 4to.

“Velazquez and Murillo : A Descriptive and Historical Catalogue of the Works of Don Dieg’ de Silva Velazquez and Bartolomé Estéban Murillo, comprising a classified list of their paintings, with descriptions ; their history from the earliest known dates, names of the present and former owners, sales in which they have appeared, and

engravings after them. Also lists of lost or unidentified pictures, a brief account of the lives and works of the disciples of these artists, a bibliography, and a complete index. With original etchings. By Charles B. Curtis, M.A. London, 1883. Demy 8vo.

"The Art Union and Art Journal 1845-1851 inclusive. London, 1851. 7 Volumes, Royal 4to.

"The Royal Scottish Academy Notes, containing 574 illustrations of the chief works, from drawings by the artists. Edited by George R. Halkett. Edinburgh, 1878-1882. 2 Volumes, Demy 8vo.

"Don John of Austria, or Passages from the History of the Sixteenth Century 1547-1578. Illustrated with numerous wood engravings by the late Sir William Stirling-Maxwell, Bart., Author of 'The Cloister Life of Charles V.,' etc. London, 1883. 2 Volumes, Royal 8vo.

"Collectors' Marks. By Lewis Fagan, Department of Prints and Drawings, British Museum. With Frontispiece by the Author. London, 1883. Small 4to.

(Signed) JOHN HUTCHISON, *Librarian.*

ROBERT HERDMAN, *Curator.*

W. F. VALLANCE, *Curator."*

VI. The Visitors of the Life School report as follows :—

"The Visitors of the Life School of the Royal Scottish Academy beg to report to the President and Council, that the Session 1882-83 commenced on 6th November 1882, and ended on 2d July 1883, including 122 evening and 119 morning meetings.

"The aggregate evening attendance was 1841, or an average of 15 per night, and 1663 was the aggregate morning attendance, being an average of 14 per morning.

"The Visitors have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the assiduity, and the diligent and orderly conduct of all the Students during the Session, and the Visitors hope that the Council will agree with them, that the results have been very satisfactory.

(Signed) J. M. BARCLAY, *Visitor.*

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, *Visitor.*

ROBERT GIBB, *Visitor.*

W. E. LOCKHART, *Visitor."*

It is gratifying to the Council to be able to commend the generally high quality of the Students' work.

After a long and careful scrutiny of the studies and of the works sent in competition for the Stuart Prize—the Students' works in this year's Exhibition having been previously examined with a view to deciding the Keith Prize—the prizes were awarded as follows:—

For Painting from the } Life (the Chalmers Prize), }	Equal,	{ C. K. ROBERTSON. T. ALISON.
For the best Drawing from the Life,		C. A. SELLAR.
For the second best,		W. G. BOSS.
Keith Prize, for the best work } of a Student in this year's } Exhibition, }		R. PATON REID.
Maclaine Watters Medal,		C. K. ROBERTSON.
Stuart Prize,		R. PATON REID.
Basso-Relievo, from Life,		J. S. RHIND.

Several studies from the Life executed in Water-colour by T. Scott, deserve honourable mention.

VII. The Council have again the pleasure of adverting to the kindness of John Leng, Esq. of Kinbrae, who has completed the terms of his engagement to bestow for three years an annual sum as a Prize to a Student of the Life School to enable him to extend his Art education by travelling on the Continent. The Student selected this year as recipient of Mr. Leng's prize is Mr. J. Michael Brown. Cordial acknowledgments and thanks are due to Mr. Leng for the warm interest and liberality he has thus displayed towards the Students of the Academy.

VIII. During the past year the following additions have

been made to the Academy's Collection of Works of Art etc., viz. :—

1. "Caleb Balderston's Ruse." Diploma Work of George Hay, Esq., R.S.A.

2. "Far from the Busy World." Diploma Work of John Smart, Esq., R.S.A.

3. "The Cid and the Five Moorish Kings." Diploma Work of W. E. Lockhart, Esq., R.S.A.

4. "Turnip Singlers." Diploma Work of W. D. M'Kay, Esq., R.S.A.

5. Portrait of Sir William Fettes Douglas, P.R.S.A. By George Reid, Esq., R.S.A.

Presented by GEORGE REID, Esq., R.S.A.

6. "Ripon Cathedral—Water-colour Drawing." By Thomas Girtin. Engraved in "The Rivers of England."

Presented by JAMES G. ORCHAR, Esq., Dundee.

7. "Round about the Round O. With its Poets." Edited by George Hay, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.¹

Presented by PATRICK ALLAN FRASER, Esq., H.R.S.A.

8. Three Volumes of the Edinburgh Architectural Association Sketch-Book.¹

Presented by the COMMITTEE.

9. "Ancient and Modern Furniture." By J. W. Small, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., Architect.¹

Presented by J. W. SMALL, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

10. Twelve Proof Plates done to illustrate a Work entitled *Twelve Sketches of Scenery and Antiquities on the Line of the Great North of Scotland Railway*. By George Reid, Esq., R.S.A.¹

Presented by GEORGE REID, Esq., R.S.A.

11. "Werner's Nomenclature of Colours." By Patrick Syme, R.S.A.¹

Presented by SIR WILLIAM FETTES DOUGLAS, P.R.S.A.

¹ See Library Report.

12. “Statuto e Prescrizioni della Pubblica Accademia di Pittura, Scultura, ed Architettura Istituita Nella Città di Venezia per Decreto dell’ Eccellentissimo Senato.”¹

Presented by JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq., R.S.A.

13. “A copy of the Edinburgh Evening Courant. Date 25th February 1830. Containing a notice of the Exhibition of the Scottish Academy.”

Presented by WALLER H. PATON, Esq., R.S.A., in 1882.

The thanks of the Council were duly transmitted to the respective donors.

IX. It is with much regret that the Council have to record the death of one of the oldest Associates of the Academy, Mungo Burton, which occurred on the 1st of December 1882. Born at Colinton in 1799, he early displayed a taste for Art, his first professional efforts being likenesses in water-colour. His principal works in portraiture, however, were in oil, whilst occasionally he produced figure pictures of Scottish homely life. His amiability and kindness secured for him the general esteem of his professional brethren.

The Council and Office-bearers were present at the funeral in their official capacity.

X. The Academy have also within the year suffered a loss of no little import in the demise, on the 12th of January, of George Monro, Advocate, Sheriff of Linlithgowshire, who for many years was consulted by the Academy when legal questions arose. His intimate knowledge of the Academy’s career, and the warm interest he manifested in its welfare and prosperity, are amply testified in his work, “Scottish Art

¹ See Library Report.

and National Encouragement.” The President, Council, and Office-bearers, with the concurrence of the representatives of the deceased, attended the funeral, and paid this their last tribute of respect to the late Sheriff.

The following Minute was unanimously adopted at a Meeting of Council, held on the 17th of January :—

“The Council, with deep regret, desire to record on the Minutes an expression of their sense of the loss sustained by the Academy in the death of the esteemed and venerable Sheriff Monro, who, from the infancy of the Academy, during its many struggles, and all through its career until now, was its staunch friend and adviser. His invaluable services were always at its command, rather as a labour of love than in the ordinary way of business, and his removal from amongst them is deplored by the Academic body, individually and collectively.

“The Secretary was instructed to transmit a copy of this Minute to Mr. Monro Thomson, and to convey to him and the other representatives of Sheriff Monro, the expression of the Council’s deep sympathy with them in their irreparable loss.”

The General Assembly of the Academicians held on the 10th of February, cordially expressed its approval of the action of the Council, and directed the Secretary to record the same in the books of the Academy.

XI. The Council have also to report that a blank has been made in the rank of Academicians by the death of Robert Gavin. He was born in Leith in 1827, and at an early age manifested a taste for Art. Under Thomas Duncan in the Board’s School of Design he studied assiduously, producing numerous pictures, mainly compositions of landscape and children. In 1868 he went to America, turning his visit to account by delineating several characteristic phases of negro life. After his return to this country—where his

stay was but short—he took a journey to the Continent, which resulted in a residence of some years at Tangier, where he evidently found what was congenial to his taste in subject and material. A series of Moorish pictures, many of them of importance, emanated from his pencil at this time, and from his final return in 1880 he continued to paint this class of subject.

Mr. Gavin was elected an Associate of the Academy in 1855, and attained the rank of Academician in 1879.

Application was made to the relatives of the deceased for permission for the Members to attend the funeral, which was complied with, and the President, along with a number of the Members, were present on the occasion. At a meeting of the Council held on the 12th of October, the following Minute was unanimously adopted:—

“Before proceeding to the special business for which this meeting was called, the Council, with much regret, desire to record their sense of the loss which the Academy has met with in the death, on the 5th inst., of their brother Academician, Robert Gavin, who has long held an honourable place on the roll of Scottish painters. His early training and associations led him to the study of familiar and rustic subjects, such as are to be found in every field and hamlet in Scotland; but latterly, from his long residence in Africa, Eastern subjects became his main study, in which his success was quite as decided as in his earlier works. They added greatly to his reputation, and their absence from the walls of the Academy will be a loss of much that was interesting in the Annual Exhibitions.

“The Secretary was instructed to transmit a copy of this Minute to Mr. Charles Forbes Gavin, and, at the same time, to convey to him and the other relatives of the deceased an expression of the Council's sympathy with them in their affliction.”

XII. It was stated in last year's Report that a printed Catalogue of all the Works of Art in the possession of the

Academy was in preparation, and would shortly be placed in the hands of the Members. The Council have the pleasure of reporting that this has now been done, and, as anticipated, it has been cordially received.

XIII. The Council submitted to the General Meeting of Academicians, held on the 13th of April, a draft of such alterations and additions to the Laws as seemed to them necessary. These, after being considered, were amended and adopted by said Meeting, and ordered to be printed, and the Council have accordingly incorporated them in a third edition which has been issued to the Members.

WM. FETTES DOUGLAS,
President.

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY,
14th November 1883.

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, held in the Library of Academy on Wednesday, the 14th of November 1883, the Office-bearers were elected, and the Council declared for the ensuing year, as follows :—

Council.

SIR WILLIAM FETTES DOUGLAS, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

ROBERT GIBB, Esq.

ALEXANDER FRASER, Esq.

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.

W. D. M'KAY, Esq.

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq.

J. B. MACDONALD, Esq.

GEORGE HAY, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

ARTHUR PERIGAL, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,

TRUSTEE.

GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.,

W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.,

} AUDITORS.

JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq.,

LIBRARIAN.

ALEXANDER FRASER, Esq.,

ROBERT GIBB, Esq.,

} CURATORS OF LIBRARY.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,

W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.,

ROBERT GIBB, Esq.,

GEORGE REID, Esq.,

} VISITORS OF LIFE SCHOOL.

NOTE.

At the same Meeting Messrs. THOMAS STUART BURNETT, PATRICK W. ADAM, and G. W. JOHNSTONE were elected Associates of the Academy.

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